## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application. Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 16, 18, 19 and 21 have been amended. Claims 2, 11-13, 17 and 22 have been canceled. Claims 23-28 have been added. Thus, claims 1, 3-10, 14-16, 18-21 and 23-28 are pending.

### Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

#### Rejections of Claims 1-22 Based on *Ghori*

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ghori et al., International Publication Number WO 98/34377 (*Ghori*). Claims 2, 11-13, 17 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, the rejections of claims 2, 11-13, 17 and 22 are moot. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that claims 1, 3-10, 14-16 and 18-21 are not anticipated by *Ghori*.

Claim 1 recites the following:

determining whether received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes;
selecting a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded; ...

Claim 10 is an apparatus claim, and recites similar limitations. Claim 21 is drawn to a machine-readable medium storing sequences of instructions, and recites similar limitations. A proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that a single prior art reference teach each and every element of the rejected claim. See MPEP § 2131.

*Ghori* discloses a digital wireless home computer system. See Abstract. The system includes a computer that transmits an encoded audio-visual data stream, and an

I/O control unit that samples and decodes the encoded data stream to extract the audio-visual data. See page 16, lines 6-9. The computer may also transmit audio-visual commands, in which case the I/O control unit samples the received signal, extracts the commands, and composes audio-visual data based on the extracted commands. See page 16, lines 9-12. _Ghori_ does not disclose selecting a decoding scheme based on one of at least two coding schemes by which received digital audio data is encoded. Consequently, _Ghori_ does not teach each and every element of claims 1 and 21, and thus does not anticipate these claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1. Claims 11-15 depend from claim 10. Claim 22 depends from claim 21. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicant submits that claims 2-9, 11-15 and 22 are not anticipated by _Ghori_ for at least the reasons set forth above, and thus are in condition for allowance.

Claim 16 recites the following:

a host device disposed in a first location to transmit digital audio data over a network; and
an audio-rendering device disposed in a second location, communicatively coupled with the host, to receive the digital audio data transmitted from the host, determine whether received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes, select a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, decode the received digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme, and convert the received digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device.

As explained above, _Ghori_ fails to disclose an audio rendering device that selects a decoding scheme based on one of at least two coding schemes by which received digital audio data is encoded. Consequently, _Ghori_ does not teach each and every element of

claim 16, as required for a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and thus does not

anticipate this claim. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner

withdraw the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 17-20 depend from claim 16. Because dependent claims include the

limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicant submits that claims 17-20

are not anticipated by *Ghori* for at least the reasons set forth above, and thus are in

condition for allowance.

## CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the rejections have been

overcome. Therefore, claims 1, 3-10, 14-16, 18-21 and 23-28 are in condition for

allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested

to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of

the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account

number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
**BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP**

Date: Dec 3, 2002
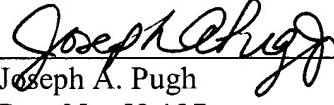
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## VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 14 as follows:

-- Home-based network interface **610** represents a communications interface through which network data is transmitted and received. Home-based network interface **610** represents a device further equipped to provide data communications across harsh networking environments such as home-based phoneline networks, powerline networks and/or HomeRF networks. In such home-based networks, as well as other less controlled harsh networking environments, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish noise or echo phenomenon caused by various environmental factors from another transmission source. For this reason, alternative networking approaches have been developed to address these harsh networking concerns. One such approach can be found in U.S. Patent application no. [<42390.P7044>] 09/378,555, entitled "A Networking Method And Apparatus Using Silent Slots To Facilitate Transmission Collision Detection", filed [_] August 19, 1999, and assigned to the corporate assignee of the present application. In one embodiment, the teachings of [<42390.P7044>] U.S. Patent application no. 09/378,555 are implemented within home-based network interface **610**. In one embodiment, home-based network interface **610** is an IEEE 802.3 compliant interface supporting the CSMA/CD protocol. In one embodiment, home-based network interface **610** is an Intel 21145 phoneline/Ethernet LAN controller that supports communication over both Ethernet and phoneline networks. --

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 8 as follows:

--**Figure 7** is a flow diagram illustrating the operation of audio bridging device **100** according to one embodiment of the present invention. Referring to Figure 7, with reference to Figure 6, home-based network interface **610** receives digital audio data transmitted across phoneline network **203** through data input port **605 (705)**. Upon receiving the digital audio data, home-based network interface **610** operates in a conventional manner to separate the various network transmission data (e.g. MAC, IP, and TCP or UDP headers) from the digital audio data (e.g. digital audio data header and digital audio data payload sections). Once the network data and digital audio data are separated, the digital audio data is passed to memory **640** which causes embedded processor **620** to be interrupted via data bus **615**. Once the digital audio data has been passed to memory **640**, embedded processor **620** operates to identify whether the digital audio data has been encoded according to one of multiple audio or video coding schemes **(710)**. If embedded processor **620** identifies that the received digital audio data has been encoded, embedded processor **620** subsequently classifies which particular coding scheme was used **(715)**. In one embodiment, embedded processor **620** utilizes the earlier described [indicator code] <u>version field</u> **522** provided within the digital audio data packet to identify and classify the presence and type of data encoding. According to one embodiment of the present invention, once embedded processor **620** identifies that a particular encoding scheme was used, embedded processor **620** accesses memory device **640** or similar equipped memory device to retrieve an appropriate CODEC **(720)** with which the digital audio data is decoded **(725)**. In the case that the digital audio data is compressed, embedded processor **620** further operates to decompress the digital audio

data. Once the digital data has been decoded and/or decompressed, or if the data was not encoded or compressed to begin with **(710)**, the digital audio data is passed to audio converter **630** where the digital audio data is then converted to analog audio **(730)**. Once the digital audio data has been converted to analog audio, the analog audio is passed through audio output ports **632** and **633 (735)**.--

IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.　　(Amended)  [A method for rendering audio, the] In an audio-rendering device, a method comprising:

receiving [by a dedicated home network enabled digital-to-analog audio bridging device (ABD)] at an audio-rendering device, data comprising digital audio data transmitted across a network from [a remotely located] an audio host;

determining [by the ABD] whether [the] received digital audio data is encoded according to one of [a plurality of] at least two coding schemes;

selecting a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded;

decoding [by the ABD] the encoded digital audio data [based upon a determined coding] in accordance with the selected decoding scheme; and

converting [by the ABD] the received digital audio data to analog audio [and outputting the analog audio for use by a loudspeaker proximately located to the ABD] for output.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

3.    (Amended)  The method according to claim 1, [wherein] further comprising encoding the digital audio data [is encoded by] at the audio host.

4.    (Amended)  The method according to claim 1, wherein [the plurality of] determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to one of the at least two coding schemes comprises determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to coding schemes [include] including mp3, wav, au, and aiff.

5.    (Unchanged)  The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving digital audio data comprises receiving a plurality of digital audio data segments and reconstructing the digital audio data from the received plurality of digital audio data segments.

6.    (Amended)  The method according to claim 5, wherein [the coding scheme is determined by] determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes comprises identifying an indicator code included within at least one of the plurality of digital audio data segments.

7.    (Amended)  The method according to claim 1, [wherein decoding further comprises] further comprising:

determining whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and

decompressing the compressed digital audio data based upon the [determined coding] selected decoding scheme.


8.    (Amended)  The method according to claim 7, further comprising [outputting] providing as output the analog audio to an amplification device.


9.    (Amended)  The method of claim 1, wherein the digital audio data is received across at least one of a plurality of [home-based] networks including a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.


10.    (Amended)  [A digital-to-analog audio bridge] An audio-rendering device comprising:

a network interface to receive digital audio data transmitted over a network from [a remote] an audio host;

a processor coupled with the network interface to:

[identify which one of a plurality of coding schemes the] determine whether received digital audio data [has been] is encoded [with] according to one of at least two coding schemes, and

select a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded;

decode the encoded digital audio data [based upon the identified coding] in accordance with the selected decoding scheme; and

a converter coupled to the processor to convert the received digital audio data to

analog audio for [use by a proximately located loudspeaker] output to a speaker

proximate the audio-rendering device.


Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.


Please cancel claim 12 without prejudice.


Please cancel claim 13 without prejudice.


14.     (Unchanged)  The digital-to-analog audio bridge according to claim 10, further

comprising a read only memory coupled to the processor to store at least one CODEC.


15.     (Unchanged)  The digital-to-analog audio bridge according to claim 10, wherein

the processor decompresses the digital audio data if it is determined that the digital audio

data is compressed.


16.     (Amended)  A residential network audio system comprising:

        a host device disposed in a first [area of a residential structure] location to

transmit digital audio data over a network; and

        [a digital-to-analog audio bridge] an audio-rendering device disposed in a second

[area of the residential structure] location, communicatively coupled with the host, to

receive the digital audio data transmitted from the host, [to identify by which of a

plurality of coding schemes the] determine whether received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes, select a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, [to] decode the received digital audio data [based upon the identified coding] in accordance with the selected decoding scheme, and [to] convert the received digital audio data to analog audio for [use with a loudspeaker] output to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device.

Please cancel claim 17 without prejudice.

18.     (Amended)  The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the network comprises a [home-based] network including at least one of a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.

19.     (Amended)  The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the [digital-to-analog audio bridge] audio-rendering device is further disposed to:

       determine whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and

       decompress the compressed digital audio data [based upon the determined coding] in accordance with the selected decoding scheme.

20.     (Unchanged)  The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the digital audio data is transmitted according to the real-time transport protocol (RTP).

21.    (Amended)  An article comprising a machine readable medium having a plurality

of machine readable instructions stored thereon, wherein when the instructions are

executed by a processor, the instructions subscribe the processor to:

receive digital audio data [transmitted across a network from an audio host];

determine whether [the] <u>received</u> digital audio data is encoded according to one of

[a plurality of] <u>at least two</u> coding schemes;

<u>select a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by</u>

<u>which the received digital audio data is encoded;</u>

decode <u>the</u> encoded digital audio data [based upon a determined coding] <u>in</u>

<u>accordance with the selected decoding</u> scheme; and

convert the <u>received</u> digital audio data to analog audio [suitable for use with a

loudspeaker] <u>for output to a speaker.</u>


22.    Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice.


23.    (New)  The article of claim 22, wherein the machine readable instructions that,

when executed, subscribe the processor to receive audio data comprise sequences of

instructions that, when executed, cause the processor to receive digital audio data

transmitted across a network from an audio host.

24.    (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output comprises converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device.

25.    (New)  A method comprising:

providing an indication, within at least one of a plurality of data segments, whether digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes; and

transmitting the plurality of data segments to an audio-rendering device.

26.    (New)  The method according to claim 25, wherein providing the indication, within the at least one of the plurality of data segments, whether the digital audio data is encoded according to the one of the at least two coding schemes comprises providing an indicator code within the at least one of the plurality of data segments.

27.    (New)  A method of claim 6, further comprising:

selecting the one of the two coding schemes based on the identified indicator code.

28.    (New)  The method of claim 27, wherein selecting the one of the two coding schemes based on the identified indicator code comprises:

accessing a lookup table that includes entries for the at least two coding schemes;

comparing the identified indicator code to the entries in the lookup table; and

identifying an entry in the lookup table that corresponds to the indicator code,

wherein the entry is the coding scheme by which the received digital audio data is

encoded.

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Examiner S. Najjar
Art Unit 2154